

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 An improved punctum plug is more easily visualized when positioned within a  
punctual canal of a recipient. The body of the plug features an outwardly exposed  
surface when properly positioned, and a substance causing at least the outwardly exposed  
10 surface to contrast with surrounding tissue, such that the use of the substance causes the  
plug to be more easily visualized than if the substance were not present. The substance,  
which may be disposed on the outwardly exposed surface or within the body of the plug,  
may include a saturated coloration, or may be phosphorescent, fluorescent or otherwise  
operative to reflect or re-radiate light to assist in visualization. For example, the  
15 substance may include an organic or inorganic phosphor or fluorescent material,  
reflective beads, quantum dots, a dye or pigment. Such reflection or re-radiation may  
occur at the same or different wavelength(s) compared to the illumination wavelength(s),  
whether or not either or both are within the visible part of the spectrum. If outside the  
visible region, a detector may be employed according to the invention for detecting the  
20 radiated light. A system for determining whether or not a punctum plug is positioned  
within the punctal canal of a person's eye is also enclosed, including at least one optical  
element permitting the eye to view itself, to be viewed by the other eye, or by a second  
person.